

**What is claimed is:**

1. A computer system, comprising:

a first data storage unit storing a first program and a second program;

a second data storage unit storing a product key of the first program according to the second program, the product key accommodating an installation of the first program; and

a third program stored in the first data storage unit for reinstalling the first program, the third program reading the product key of the first program stored in the second data storage unit, when a product key from the third program and the product key stored in the second data storage unit are identical.

2. The computer system according to claim 1, with the first program being an operating system controlling the operation of the computer system.

3. The computer system according to claim 1, with the first data storage unit comprising:

a first unit storing the first program; and

a second unit storing the third program.

4. The computer system according to claim 3, with the second program being stored in the first unit or the second unit.

1           5. The computer system according to claim 3, with the second unit being a re-writable  
2 magnetic disk storage device or an optical storage device.

1           6. The computer system according to claim 1, with information on the product key of the  
2 first program being a bar code-readable signal.

1           7. The computer system according to claim 1, with the third program being provided with  
an information input window to allow a user to directly input the product key, when a product key  
from the third program and the product key stored in the second data storage unit being not identical  
with each other.

1           8. The computer system according to claim 1, further comprising an extended  
complementary metal-oxide semiconductor random-access memory, the second data storage unit  
being accommodated in the extended complementary metal-oxide semiconductor random-access  
4 memory.

1           9. The computer system according to claim 8, with the extended complementary metal-oxide  
2 semiconductor random-access memory having an auxiliary power source to preserve the stored  
3 information when the computer system is off.

1 10. The computer system according to claim 1, with the second program being installed in  
2 a hard disk drive storing the first program and application programs.

1 11. The computer system according to claim 1, with the second program being erased when  
2 the product key is stored in the second data storage unit to prevent the product key of the first  
3 program from being reentered.

12. A method for storing a product key of an operating system program, comprising the steps  
of:

reading the product key comprised of a bar code by a bar code reader, corresponding to an  
installation process of the operating system program, the operating system program for controlling  
the operations of a computer system, the computer system comprising a central processing unit, a  
main memory, a basic input-output system read only memory, an auxiliary memory storing therein  
7 information set up by the basic input-output system read only memory, using the operating system  
8 program having the product key; and

9 storing the product key in a product key storage by activating a product key storage program.

1 13. The method according to claim 12, with the product key storage being accommodated

in an extended complementary metal-oxide semiconductor random-access memory.

14. The method according to claim 12, with the product key storage program being installed in a hard disk drive storing the operating system program and application programs therein.

15. A method, comprising the steps of:  
initiating an initial install of a first program on a first data storage unit on a computer system;  
inputting a product key of the first program, the product key being used for certifying an authenticity of the first program and accommodating an installation of the first program on the computer system;

writing the product key onto a second data storage unit of the computer system;

installing the remainder of the first program after writing the product key;

initiating a reinstallation of the first program on the computer system;

reading the product key from the second data storage unit;

comparing the product key read from the second data storage unit with the product key of the first program;

inputting the product key into a product key input window of the first program when the product keys are compared to be identical; and

continuing to complete the reinstallation of the first program after the product key is inputted into the product key input window.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, with the step of inputting the product key being  
2 through a bar code reader from an installation media of the first program.

1 17. The method according to claim 15, with the step of storing the product key in the second  
2 data storage unit being controlled by a second program, the second program being erased after the  
3 step of storing the product key to prevent the product key of the first program from being reentered.

1 18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of initiating a checksum  
2 of the specific regions of the second data storage unit having the product key to ascertain whether  
3 the read product key is correct.

1 19. The method according to claim 15, with the step of comparing having the product key  
2 of the first program obtained from a third program accommodating the reinstallation of the first  
3 program.

1 20. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of storing the product key  
2 in a specific region of the first data storage unit and the first program continuing to install on the  
3 computer system before the step of writing the product key onto a second data storage unit, the  
4 product key being written from the product key stored on the first data storage unit.

1           21. The method according to claim 15, with the first program being an operating system  
2           controlling the operation of the computer system.

1           22. The method according to claim 15, with the step of storing the product key in the first  
2           data storage unit being controlled by a second program, the second program being erased after the  
3           step of storing the product key to prevent the product key of the first program from being reentered,  
4           the step of comparing having the product key of the first program obtained from a third program  
            accommodating the reinstallation of the first program.

            23. The method according to claim 22, with the first data storage unit comprising:  
            a first unit storing the first program; and  
            a second unit storing the third program.

1           24. The method according to claim 23, with the second program being in stored in the first  
2           unit or the second unit.

1           25. The method according to claim 23, with the second unit being a re-writable magnetic  
2           disk storage device or an optical storage device.

1           26. The method according to claim 23, with the second program being installed in a hard  
2 disk drive storing the first program and application programs.

1           27. The method according to claim 23, with the third program being provided with the  
2 information input window to allow a user to directly input the product key, when the product key  
3 from the third program and the product key stored in the second data storage unit being not identical  
4 with each other.

1           28. The method according to claim 15, with the second data storage unit being  
2 accommodated in the extended complementary metal-oxide semiconductor random-access memory  
3 having a backup power source.  
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